

# Bandwagon

Vol. 6, No. 5—JUNE, 1951

15c

## THE 1951 C. H. S. CONVENTION

Plans are going forward for the biggest and best convention that CHS has ever had. It will be held, as you know, in Cincinnati, August 3, 4, and 5, 1951. Headquarters will be at the Metropole Hotel, and I am sure that so far as a hotel is concerned this will leave nothing to be wanted. Mr. Jenkins, the manager, has very graciously offered to let us have an exhibit on the Mezzanine floor, which will give plenty of room to hang pictures, put up posters—in fact to have all the things we may want to have right where we want them. All of us like to eat I am sure—and we are assured of a real banquet—with all the trimmings. We expect to have a number of guests present—members of the CFA from Ohio—who will have a State meeting on August 4.

Several persons have been contacted, to speak to us—and all of them have said they will be there and say something. Entertainment will be provided by a singing cowgirl, and I'm sure that all of us will have plenty to "cut up" and that we will put it up and take it down many times.

A trip will be arranged to the Cincinnati Zoo, which is one of the best in the country. For those who like baseball, Brooklyn will play Cincinnati at that time. There will be a nite game on Friday, Aug. 3, Ladies day on Saturday afternoon Aug. 4, and a double header on Sunday, Aug. 5, so if you are a fan—its an opportunity to see some big league baseball while you are there.

Opportunity will be offered to go to Coney Island, one of the country's largest amusement parks and John Robinson IV will arrange for us to see what is left of the old winter quarters.

There will be other things planned for us—as yet they are in the idea stage—but I'm sure that you will have a grand time and be glad that you attended the convention.

In closing may I remind you to make your hotel reservation at once! Rates are to be found on the back page of this issue of the Bandwagon, and as we want to have a big attendance—think it over now—make up your mind to attend—and get your reservation in to the Metropole at once!

ROBERT C. KING,  
Secretary C.H.S.



HOBBY

# Bandwagon

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JUNE, 1951

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No. 5

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**HARRY M. SIMPSON**  
Publisher

Subscribed and sworn before me this  
25th day of September, 1950.

**LOUISE SIMPSON,**  
Notary Public.

## The Editor Says

I want to thank all the writers and associate editors for helping make the May issue a success. Especially do I want to thank John Kunzog and Charlie Duble for their valuable articles and advice. I have received many favorable letters on this issue which inspires me to do even better in the future. You are all reporters and **do share** some of your circadiana with the rest of the members through the medium of the Bandwagon.

The Secretary has asked me to call to your attention that dues in CHS are \$3.25 per year. This is by vote taken in December, 1949, and although everyone was told of the matter, still some members are not sending in the correct amount when they pay their dues. We do not want anyone who has already paid, to send in any balance that may not have been paid—we just want everyone to keep this matter in mind when next they pay. And while on the subject—look at your membership card now—and see if you are paid up.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in person at the Convention. I've read many letters from you and heard my husband talk about you so it will certainly be a pleasure to meet you personally.

AGNES W. KING

## — DON'T FORGET —

CHS CONVENTION AT  
CINCINNATI

August 3-4-5, 1951

Until further notice, please  
send all news and stories to be  
published in the Bandwagon to:

**AGNES W. KING**

P. O. Box 235

Richmond, Indiana



# The Circus in Germany Today

By Fritz Dillenberg

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Dillenberg has been a member of C. H. S. since October, 1950. He has a Circus-Museum in Berlin which contains some 18,000 photographs, and some programmes dating back to 1822. He also has models and costumes. I feel he is quite an asset to our membership. He is very anxious to exchange items with members. Right now is anxious to get "From Rome to Ringling" and "The Big Cage." Write to him—

MR. FRITZ DILLENBERG,  
Erstes DeutschesCircus-Museum  
z/St.: Berlin-Charlottenburg 9,  
Lyck-Allee 14

The winter season will soon be finished. The main attraction remains always Gilbert Houcke with his splendid tigers.

During the month of January he will train a new animal fetched from the Low Countries. Houcke hopes to be able to present this animal to the public with his other tigers at the beginning of the summer season at Bremen, where the ensemble of the Swedish Circus is engaged by the Circus Roland. The owner is Mr. Aureden, former employee of Sarrasani. Next month Mme. Trude Sarrasani, coming from Buenos Aires, will play for some weeks at Berlin, where she organized a circus with her second husband, Mr. Nemedý.

Grock has hired the circus Plotz-Althoff and will start his touring about the 20th of March at Hambourg as well as Hagenbeck will start at Kiel on the 23rd of March.

In the Russian zone of Germany there are some little circuses travelling around (about 15) as well as the circus Busch. Jacob Busch is a very serious enterprise as well as the circus Cliff Aeros with a nice show staged by a mixed show of animals, the circus Barley and last but not least the circus Alois Schickler, a circus of an average importance, which has travelled till up to date in the western zone of Germany.

I forgot to tell you that the circus Belli Bros. has purchased in England a group of F. Lions. This group belonged to the circus "Pagel" South Africa. These animals had been presented by the brother in law of Cliff Aeros, an old trainer of certain merits, but who does not succeed in presenting his animals advantageously. The animals seem to be afraid. It is quite clear that these animals were trained without feelings but brutality. I do not understand why the directors give room today to animals of the so-called trainers to break who never succeed in presenting an interesting show to the public. What a difference with the Gilbert Houck and Rudolph Matthies.

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On November 11, 1901, George E. Holland and Rose Dockrill were married at Savannah, Georgia.

# Calliope

Sent in by R. J. (Bob) Bernard

In the last pages of an old circus book, from a collection, entitled "Show Life In America," by Will Delavoye, are written with pen and ink, in long hand, the following about the origin of the steam calliope.

## Origin Of The Calliope

Invented in the early part of the 1700's, by a Frenchman by the name of Calliope, after which the instrument was named. The original calliope was worked by pulling on strings attached to the whistles. An American was the first to use a piano keyboard on the calliope. It was first introduced in America on the boat show of Spalding and Rogers, on the Ohio River, in the 60's. The air compressor Calliope in use has practically eliminated the steam calliope. P. T. Barnum had the first steam calliope built on a wagon.

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## Gollmar Bros. 1901

Furnished by Bill Kasiska

In June, 1901—Roster of Gollmar Bros. & Schuman's Triple Circus and Menagerie; Gollmar Bros., Proprietors.

Chas. A. Gollmar, business manager; Walter C. Gollmar, assistant manager; Ben F. Gollmar, treasurer; Fred C. Gollmar, advance manager; Will St. Auburn, contracting agent; Ed. Jamison, advertising agent; Harry Wertz, equestrian director; George Holland, boss hostler; Chester Gruber, assistant boss hostler; Curley Kerschner, night watchman; Doc Parkhurst, boss canvasman, Frank Mitchell, assistant boss canvasman; Arthur Gates, boss props.; David Gates, boss wardrobe; Wm. Jenks, boss animal man; Tom Dailey, assistant boss; Al. Jones, chandelier man; Ed. Maher, cookhouse and candy stand; Frank Macart, manager annex; James Fitzgerald, manager concert; Prof. Dixon, leader of band; members of band: G. Viquesney, Fred Schudhouse, Fred Denberg, Frank Seavey, H. C. Hall, Chas. Smith, Fred Donenberg, Walter Fink, John Braham, Ed. Filip, Geo. Smith, Fred Saunders, Wm. Fraberg, Wm. Bernhard; performers included: Ed and Josie Simpson, George Parents, Ed. Guthrie and Ed. Nufold, Maud Hocum, Myrtle Willis, Wm. Adair, Ida Guthrie, Wm. Jenks, Tom Atkinson, Alpine Family, H. Wertz, E. V. Hocum, James C. Beano, Wertz and Adair, Bert Leon, Hugh Dougherty, John J. Willis, Pearl Alpine, Hattie Adair, Irene Mohler, Willis Gollmar; concert people: Alpine sisters, Dolly Davenport, Ida Guthrie, Ed. Nufold, Leon and Daugherty, and James Fitzgerald; Annex—Frank Macart, Jessie Macart, Ilma, snake charmer; Dotty Andrews, John Andrews, Renold and James Fitzgerald.

Showed in Three Separate Rings.



# Band Sounds Off With Mendelssohn March for Lee Inman

By R. S. Mettler, *Journal-News*, Hamilton, Ohio

The many friends of Lee Inman in the music world will be surprised to learn of his marriage in Hamilton, Ohio, on the day before Easter, 1951.

After sixty-nine years a bachelor, Lee escorted Miss Dorothy Baker, Hamilton, Ohio, to the altar where they were united in holy matrimony.

Mr. Inman will be remembered as first chair cornet in the band on the Sun Bros. Circus, season 1909.

Incidentally this was the first season of trouping for Charles E. Duble, well known composer of many fine band marches and other band compositions. Mr. Duble was on Sun Bros. performing under Bandmaster Charles Gerlach, where he and Mr. Inman trouped together that season.

Mr. Inman is retired from the circus life and has his own concert band with band headquarters and office at Seventh and Walnut Streets, Hamilton, Ohio.

Among the several former troupers who are members of the Inman Concert Band are Ramon and George Mettler. Ramon Mettler made his debut in the trouping music world in 1915, as bandmaster on the National Exposition Shows, opening in Covington, Kentucky. The show was operated by Steve T. Mulchay and Col. I. N. Fisk, both now deceased. Herman Wiehmier, father of the Cincinnati Reds Pitcher, Herman Wiehmier, was solo cornet in the band; and Amada Longo, formerly first chair trombone of a well known municipal band of Italy, was baritone; while Alfred Pare, later with the famous all-French over-seas band of Ed Chenette, played French horn. The next season Bess Mettler (Mrs. Ramon Mettler) entered the band playing bass horn or tuba. She has the proud distinction of being the first lady to play in a band in the annual parade of the Cincinnati Holy Name Society.

An atmosphere of spangles and sawdust fills the band room every rehearsal night when the Duble, King, Alexander and other marches are run over. Friends of Mr. Inman and troupers passing through Hamilton are always extended a very warm welcome at band headquarters. Lee will be pleased to hear from any old friends of his trouping days. Mr. Inman is president of Local 31, American Federation of Musicians, Hamilton, Ohio.

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On Oct. 29, 1901, the train bearing the Forepaugh-Sells Bros. United Shows was in a collision with a freight train near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A number of elephants escaped and, after a chase, were located and driven into Baton Rouge and corralled. None of the other animals escaped, although four cars loaded with cages were wrecked.

## HE BUILDS 'EM EVERY WINTER

Sent in by Art (Doc) Miller

I've owned a thousand circuses  
in forty years of time,  
Built mainly in the winter  
and mostly in my mind.  
I've owned four hundred dapple grays  
and harness trimmed in brass;  
Six great big gold leaf tableau,  
Believe me boy, twas class.

I had the best of sleeping cars,  
Steel flats and everything,  
And, unlike other circusmen,  
was ready in the spring.  
My parade had countless open dens,  
And mounted gals galore;  
It was indeed a spectacle,  
How my name and fame did soar.

It is a most inspiring work  
When the ground is white with snow,  
To sit up near a red hot stove  
and dope out such a show.  
They make all kinds of money,  
every day a turn away,  
You can't keep people from this show,  
Every night is pay off day.

I built one only yesterday,  
I'm building one tonight.  
I build one nearly every day,  
I've done it all my life.  
I can build you any kind of a show  
for the price of a postage stamp.  
One hundred cars right down the line  
to a modern "Gypsy camp."

I've known a lot of other guys,  
Big showmen of my class  
Who build them every winter,  
but they're always filled with gas.  
But we should worry, we should fret,  
we have a lot of fun;  
We'll build them just the same next year,  
until our time is done.

And then I'll build one up above  
Along the milk white way,  
And open for a "easer"  
and have exclusive sway.  
I'll have Solomon stage a mighty 'speer'  
the greatest of all times,  
Ben Hur will drive the chariot race  
and Daniel work his lions.

Moses will have the side show  
"Old Tut" will have the pits;  
Their stuff is new, never shown before,  
So we'll shoot off for six bits.  
We'll make a lot of money,  
for there'll be no "nut" at all,  
So I'll meet you in the gloaming  
and we'll celebrate next fall.

—Anonymous.

Page 6—Hobby-Bandwagon, June, 1951

## HARRY BOWMAN, C.H.S. MEMBER, DIES

JEANNETTE, Pa., June 2—  
Harry P. Bowman, 77, long-time  
circus and minstrel show agent,  
died at the home of his daughter  
here May 26. He had been partially  
paralyzed for five years and  
retired for about 10 years.

Bowman managed the Sloan &  
Gaston Circus in 1899 and had his  
own show in 1901. Subsequently,  
he was agent for many of the J.  
Augustus Jones shows, under management  
of Jones and his brothers,  
Elmer and Alex, and C. L. Erickson.  
For part of the 1913 season  
he was general agent of the Mollie  
Bailey Circus and in 1920 was agent  
for Christy Bros.

In 1942 Bowman published a  
book, *As Told on a Sunday Run*,  
a compilation of show titles and  
significant dates in show history.  
He was an active member of the  
Circus Historical Society. At one  
time he operated a roller rink in  
Jeannette.

Surviving are his daughter, Mrs.  
Arthur Gerard; a son, Harry Bowman  
Jr., of Flint, Mich.; a brother,  
George, and a sister, Nettie Bowman,  
both of Jeannette.

Our sympathy is extended to  
Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Moberg in  
the recent loss of their son, Cyril.

### NEW MEMBERS

John C. Arter, No. 486  
4410 Virginia Ave.,  
Charleston 4, W. Va.

John Hanly, No. 489  
1003 Valley Road,  
Charleston 2, W. Virginia.

An article about Johnny Vogelsang  
appears in "The Thimble" for February,  
1951. This publication is put out by  
The Simplicity Pattern Co.



## C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

C. Spencer Chambers, widely known member of the Circus Historical Society, died Tuesday, June 19, 1951. Mr. Chambers was at the Postoffice in Syracuse, when he suffered a heart attack and died before an ambulance arrived.

He was widely known as a collector of circusiana and a dealer in same. Many of our members knew him personally—and probably all of us have had dealings with him. He was a man who remembered his friends and often sent them things from his collection, as a gift. On the day of his death, your secretary received a very fine English Circus Bill that was printed in 1847.

Spencer Chambers was an educator for more than 47 years, and had been with the Syracuse schools for 29 years. He had recently retired, and planned to move to Cleveland.

The sympathy of all goes to his wife, Mrs. Leota D. Chambers, and his daughter, Mrs. Daniel Smith, who survive him.

# Diamond Ring for Otto Griebing

## BEQUEST OF DENVER, COLO., LAWYER TO SAD FACED CLOWN

From Peru Republican, April 20, 1951

Sitting upon the floor and knitting a sweater the famous Peru clown Otto Griebing with Ringling Circus now in New York City was found recently by Sidney Fields, who writes under the heading "Only Human" in the New York Daily Mirror, as follows:

### Otto Griebing: A Grin Out of Any Grouch

Ten years ago a rabid circus fan died in Denver, and his lawyer spent the next three months hunting for a little clown. The lawyer finally caught up with the clown in Rochester, Ind., and showed him a portion of the will, which read:

"Because no one has ever made me laugh like the sad little tramp, Otto Griebing, I bequeath him my diamond ring valued at \$500."

Over at the Garden the other day Otto sadly showed me the ring. This is his first year with the Ringling Circus. He's a round little man of 52 with woe-filled eyes, who has been in circuses for 38 years, and a clown for 31. Even experts like Emmett Kelly consider Otto a master at the serious art of clowning; and they will watch him to learn.

During his early days Otto was a trapeze man for five years, when they worked without nets. One day he fell 18 feet, and broke his leg. They said: "You're no good to us anymore," and gave him \$5 and left him lying on the empty lot, crying. Four weeks later Otto was well enough to join another circus.

"Selling candy," he says. "But I was fired in five days. I happened to overcharge a lady. There's 5,000 people in the tent and I overcharge this lady. She happens to be the boss' wife."

And back in the early days he worked with Tom Mix who shot Otto in the leg during one performance. They were great friends—Tom was best man at Otto's wedding.

### Unclamping The Iron Jaw

Otto has three children and two grandchildren. After he and his first wife, an "Iron Jaw" who hangs from the circus top by her teeth, were divorced three years ago, Otto married a St. Louis real estate woman.

Another friend of Otto's was Jack Dempsey. They worked together when Dempsey and Carpentier were doing exhibition bouts for the circus.

"When we went fishing once," Otto says, "I pushed Dempsey off a bridge into the water. He got mad, so I got scared and run like crazy."

Otto arrived here from Germany by

way of Yokohama. His mother came here alone after his father died. His brother, Emil, now a Wall Street man, worked his way over on a boat, and his mother thought Otto could do the same thing.

"I go to Bremerhaven and get a cabin boy job. Three days out to sea I ask the other boys when we dock at Hoboken. They tell me, we're out. We're going to Yokohama. So I have to go back to Bremerhaven. But this time I take the right boat."

His mother was about to make a tailor out of him, but Otto read an ad calling for an apprentice bare-back rider. He ran off and joined the circus. His boss whipped him every day, as part of the regular instruction. One day the boss sent Otto out with a five dollar bill to get one loaf of bread and one bottle of milk. Otto had never seen that much money before. He took off, and spent the next two years logging and farming in Wisconsin. Then he read an ad in the paper about the same circus he left.

### Delayed Errand

Otto went back. Before he saw the boss he bought two bottles of milk and two loaves of bread and brought them in with the right change of the late five dollars.

"He counts it very carefully and says: 'Now get to work.' He was strict, but he knocks it into me. He taught me everything, dancing, bare back riding, pantomime, juggling, the trapeze."

He never taught Otto how to be a clown. In fact, he told Otto: "Whatever you do, don't try to be funny. It's not in you." Otto says that settled it because the boss was always wrong. When Otto wanted to be right, he'd always ask the boss what to do and then do the exact opposite. So he became a clown, the unsmilingest clown in the world.

But with his studied sadness he makes a grin out of any grouch. He sits and knits in the ring, or gets his finger caught in a bottle, and manages to trip and kick himself in the mouth.

There's an apocryphal story about Otto, which he will not deny. One day his friends sent him to a psychoanalyst to find out why Otto never smiled. The analyst said:

"I know the cure. You go to the circus and see this clown, Otto Griebing. He'll make you laugh."

"Pardon me, Doctor, said Otto. 'I'm Otto Griebing.'" The analyst sighed sadly and said: "Well, then there's nothing I can do for you."



## BRIT ROTH (Continued from last issue)

Information that there is a Circus Historical society in these parts, with three members residents of Allentown, came to Ye Old Timer in a roundabout way—Allentown to Maitland, Florida, to Wichita, Kansas, back to Allentown. Last November George Chindahl, an attorney of Maitland, Fla., requested information about the Coup-Snyder-Zimmerman one-tent Circus which appeared in Allentown in 1893.

Mr. Chindahl is a circus fan securing all information possible about oldtime circus shows from the time they started in the United States. He is assisted in securing this information by Robert D. Good, son of County Commissioner Robert F. Good, formerly with the Ringling-Barnum and Bailey circus. He is now with a drug store in Allentown. Mr. Good admits he is a circus fan, an assertion which can be verified by a visit to his Turner St. home where one room has been converted into a circus museum.

Last November when Ye Old Timer arrived at his 89th birthday anniversary, Mr. Good forwarded newspaper clippings informing the public about this important event, also details about the Coup-Snyder-Zimmerman one-tent circus visit to Allentown in 1893, to Mr. Chindahl in Florida. As a dutiful member of the Circus Historical society he forwarded this information to headquarters in Wichita, Kansas. Whereupon Bette Leonard, organizer and president of the Circus Historical society, sent this belated letter under date of Jan. 19, 1951, to Ye Old Timer:

"First let me congratulate you on a belated birthday wish and also to thank you for the space you gave Mr. Chindahl of Florida in his search for information about the Coup-Snyder-Zimmerman circus.

"We have a society called 'The Circus Historical Society' made up of members who are collectors of information pertaining to the circus, old as well as new. We have over 300 members of which Mr. Chindahl is one as well as Robert D. Good of Allentown. Charles Kistler of Allentown and Wilson L. Little, and members of the James McInnes family of near Alburdis, are members. I am a native of Pennsylvania having been born and raised in Corry. We have 27 members in Pennsylvania."

\* \* \*

Mrs. Leonard concludes her letter in complimentary style for Ye Old Timer, at the same time mentioning that one of her staunch friends was Victor Murdock, former editor of the Wichita Eagle. Mr. Murdock in addition to editorial duties was the author of several books and

served the Congressional district in Kansas having been elected to fill a vacancy in 1903, was reelected in 1905 serving with distinction uninterruptedly until 1915. He was a native of Wichita. Another staunch friend was Charles Dsicoll whose funeral Mrs. Leonard attended. He was a native of Wichita and became famous as an editor and newspaper man. He succeeded O. O. McIntyre on a New York newspaper after the passing of that popular writer. He was the author of many books.

Mr. Good explained he never met Bette Leonard. She organized the Circus Historical society about ten years ago he explained. She was formerly with the Hagenbeck and Robinson shows as an equestrienne. Her husband is a professional trainer of horses.

Charles Kistler, mentioned in Mrs. Leonard's letter as one of the Historical society, in his younger days was a member of the Woody Newhard, John Schiffert, Milt Amey minstrel aggregation and later became stenographer for Judge E. A. Gearhart of Lehigh county's orphans court. He has always been an ardent circus fan. Mr. Good could give no information about the McInnes family of near Alburdis but believes someone was connected with a circus. Nor could he give information about Wilson L. Little. In a recent letter Mr. Chindahl referring to the Coup-Snyder-Zimmerman one-tent circus, organized in South Bethlehem, said it went to Allentown in 1893. He said "this must have been one of the last ventures. After parting with P. T. Barnum the owner lost about everything he had. He died a very poor man."

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The June 5 "Look" has shots of the stars in the forthcoming movie "The Greatest Show On Earth."

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Articles concerning the circus appear in the June issue of Popular Photography; Modern Screen; in a May issue of Liberty on "Cheerful Gardner," and in the May issue of Cornet Magazine.

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Add to your list of Songsters which appeared in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Bandwagon. The cover is pink and is titled "All the Popular Songs of the Day"—Walter L. Main's All New Monster Railroad Shows Popular Songster. The back cover advertises the side show. Copyrights on songs are for 1891 and 1897 so the booklet was probably issued about that time. Bill Green owns one and sent in this information.

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DON'T FORGET C.H.S. CONVENTION

AUGUST 3-4-5, 1951

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and Circus Fans  
are Always  
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# A Trip or Visit With Jumbo's Ghost

Sent in by Ed Cripps, Brantford, Ontario

One Sunday, recently took a trip with the family to St. Thomas, Ont., the idea being an outing for the good wife and kids. However, must admit that back in a corner of my mind was an idea along the circus line, that being to try and look up the spot where the Mighty Jumbo was killed in St. Thomas in 1885.

First I stopped at the C.N.R. station and enquired as to the spot and was told that the event occurred on the Wabash line near the Woodworth Street crossing. So after much driving (also back seat driving) up and down back streets which were plenty rough and asking many towns people, we finally arrived at the crossing. But, alas there is no marker or anything to show the exact spot.

So me and my two boys (the good wife remained in the car enjoying what was left of her nails) walked up the tracks each side of the right away but found no marker to indicate the spot.

However, it was in a way a circus day to me, as in my minds eye I could picture the long circus train of the great P. T. Barnum's Circus on these railroad sidings and the tents on the lot somewheres in the city, the baggage horses, the rumble of wagons, the music and all that goes to make our beloved circus day. Then the thought that somewhere along this stretch of track the great Jumbo laid down to his final rest.

Yes, it was a circus day of the mind so as to speak, and well worth the trip. It's a shame to me, that there is no suitable marker at this spot to commemorate this event. Perhaps some day the fan clubs can get together to have this done.

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Founded in 1939

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